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To all media houses

COPE disappointed with President's move to sign Electoral Amendment Bill into law

For immediate release

The Congress of the People has noted with disappointment the last-minute move by President Cyril Ramaphosa to sign the Electoral Matters Amendment Bill into law.

The bill, which Parliament passed in March amends the Political Party Funding Act, effectively removes the cap on political party donations and changes disclosure criteria.

It also allows independent candidates access to the Multi-Party Democracy Fund once elected, which currently supports political parties with private sector donations.

However, as COPE, we view the signing of this piece of legislation into law so close to the general election as an assault on constitutional democracy.

Additionally, this demonstrates the general inefficiencies of Ramaphosa's administration, which is characterised by tasks being completed either slowly or not at all.

"This is an assault on the constitutional values that have been hard won, in that the need for transparency and the need for accountability is an important cornerstone of our constitutional democracy," said COPE Acting National Chairperson Pakes Dikgetsi.

"For Ramaphosa to remove the provision that political parties should not declare and be transparent is an assault on democratic values. This is according to Chapter One of the Constitution that South Africa is founded on democratic values where government is transparent and accountable.

"Ramaphosa is creating a breeding ground for more corruption and more abuse because we know who are going to be the beneficiaries of that lack of transparency."

It is also not surprising coming from Ramaphosa because they have been hellbent since 2009 to undermine the value of our constitution and that of the country.


If Cope gets elected, we will campaign in Parliament and outside to change that law and to strengthen it, so that there is more accountability and more transparency.

Ends.

Issued by Pakes Dikgetsi
Acting National Chairperson

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